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FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

| EXAMINER | |
|---|---|
| JONES, DAVID | |

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| 2622 | |

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 09/503,478 | TANAKA, NORIAKI | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | David L Jones | 2622 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 July 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-34* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *16-34* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1. The amendment to the claims filed on 6/1/04 has been entered and made of record as stipulated in the Request for Continued Examination filed 7/29/04. Claims 1-15 are pending and claims 16-34 have been cancelled.

### *Response to Arguments*

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to independent claims 1, 8, and 15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1 and 8 recites the limitation "a print request" on line 3 of claim 1, and on line 6 the same limitation is repeated except it is unclear what print request is being referred to. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim1, 8, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwarz, Jr. (US 6,476,927).

**Regarding claim 1**, Schwarz teaches an information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

specifying means (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) for specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices;

first designating means (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) for instructing the terminal device that specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and

management means (central job accounting, column 6, lines 47-58) for managing record.

As taught by Schwarz, a client terminal (12a-12m, simplified in figures 1 and 9) sends a request to print a job to the print server (14) through the print driver in the client terminal. The print driver sends a job ticket token as shown in figure 3, from the information supplied by the user (figure 2). The print server upon receiving the job ticket token the server parses the token, determines an appropriate printer (20a-20n) for the print job, and returns a selected printer token to the client computer, which includes the network address and name of the selected printer. In this way, the print job assigned to a proper printer for the print job by the print server, as shown,

the print server does not see the print job, but merely the job ticket token of the print job, in this way the network does not have to carry the print job twice. Further, in column 6, lines 47-58, Schwarz teaches that the system "inherently" provides central job accounting, since the relevant specifications of print jobs are seen and can be stored by the central print server, when the central print server parses the incoming job ticket. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that since within a computer system and/or network each device contains an internal clock, that the print job token upon either receiving the ticket or response thereto would maintain within the accounting system the time and date the token is sent to the printer. As stated above the system of Schwarz is performing the same functions as stated in claim 1.

**Regarding claim 8**, Schwarz teaches a method of controlling an information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

a specifying step (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) of specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices;

a first designating step (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) of instructing the terminal device that specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and

a management step (central job accounting, column 6, lines 47-58) of managing record

information including the printing date of the printing performed by the printer according to the instruction.

As taught by Schwarz, a client terminal (12a-12m, simplified in figures 1 and 9) sends a request to print a job to the print server (14) through the print driver in the client terminal. The print driver sends a job ticket token as shown in figure 3, from the information supplied by the user (figure 2). The print server upon receiving the job ticket token the server parses the token, determines an appropriate printer (20a-20n) for the print job, and returns a selected printer token to the client computer, which includes the network address and name of the selected printer. In this way, the print job assigned to a proper printer for the print job by the print server, as shown, the print server does not see the print job, but merely the job ticket token of the print job, in this way the network does not have to carry the print job twice. Further, in column 6, lines 47-58, Schwarz teaches that the system "inherently" provides central job accounting, since the relevant specifications of print jobs are seen and can be stored by the central print server, when the central print server parses the incoming job ticket. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that since within a computer system and/or network each device contains an internal clock, that the print job token upon either receiving the ticket or response thereto would maintain within the accounting system the time and date the token is sent to the printer. As stated above the system of Schwarz is performing the same functions as stated in claim 8.

**Regarding claim 15**, Schwarz teaches a computer-readable storage medium storing program code of a method of controlling an information processing apparatus comprising:

code of a specifying step (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) of specifying a

terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices connected via a network;

code of a first designating step (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) of instructing the terminal device that specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and

a management step (central job accounting, column 6, lines 47-58) of managing record information including the printing date of the printing performed by the printer according to the instruction.

As taught by Schwarz, a client terminal (12a-12m, simplified in figures 1 and 9) sends a request to print a job to the print server (14) through the print driver in the client terminal. The print driver sends a job ticket token as shown in figure 3, from the information supplied by the user (figure 2). The print server upon receiving the job ticket token the server parses the token, determines an appropriate printer (20a-20n) for the print job, and returns a selected printer token to the client computer, which includes the network address and name of the selected printer. In this way, the print job assigned to a proper printer for the print job by the print server, as shown, the print server does not see the print job, but merely the job ticket token of the print job, in this way the network does not have to carry the print job twice. Further, in column 6, lines 47-58, Schwarz teaches that the system "inherently" provides central job accounting, since the relevant specifications of print jobs are seen and can be stored by the central print server, when the central print server parses the incoming job ticket. It is well known in the art that the computer system to operate must utilize computer code for the system to operate properly. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that since

within a computer system and/or network each device contains an internal clock, that the print job token upon either receiving the ticket or response thereto would maintain within the accounting system the time and date the token is sent to the printer. As stated above the system of Schwarz is performing the same functions as stated in claim 15.

7. Claims 2-7, and 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwarz, Jr. as applied to claims 1, 8, and 15 above, and further in view of Boswell (US 5,559,933).

**Regarding claim 2**, Schwarz teaches an information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

specifying means (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) for specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices;

first designating means (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) for instructing the terminal device that specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and a second designating means (printer selection override option 48, column 5, lines 17-27). Schwarz does not explicitly teach that there is a dependence upon the mode of connection between the designated printer and the client terminal.

Boswell teaches a second designating means (fig. 7, #276, column 13, lines 1-18) for designating a printer that is to print image information;

wherein said first designating means (fig. 7, #278, column 13, lines 1-18) instructs transfer of the image information in dependence upon mode of connection between the printer designated by said second designating means and the terminal device storing the image information.

Schwarz, Jr. and Boswell are analogous art because they both are from the same field of endeavor, image processing.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the transfer dependence mode of Boswell with the system of Schwarz, Jr.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide the system with a larger print attribute library or criteria of which to choose the appropriate printer of which to route the print job to and the fastest mode of doing so.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Boswell with Schwarz, Jr. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

**Regarding claim 3**, Schwarz teaches an information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

specifying means (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) for specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices;

first designating means (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) for instructing the terminal device that specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and a second designating means (printer selection override option 48, column 5, lines 17-27).

Boswell teaches an apparatus wherein said first designating means instructs transfer of the image information in dependence upon whether said terminal device and printer are connected locally or via a network (column 14, lines 30-50).

**Regarding claim 4**, Schwarz teaches an information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

specifying means (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) for specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices;

first designating means (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) for instructing the terminal device that specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and a second designating means (printer selection override option 48, column 5, lines 17-27).

Boswell teaches an apparatus wherein said specifying means includes a management database for managing image information as image file names; and

wherein said specifying means specifying a terminal device, which is storing image information to be printed, based upon an image file name that has been registered in said management database (column 9, lines 50-67, column 10, lines 1-5).

**Regarding claim 5**, Schwarz teaches an information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

specifying means (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) for specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices;

first designating means (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) for instructing the terminal device that specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and a second designating means (printer selection override option 48, column 5, lines 17-27).

Boswell teaches an apparatus wherein the image file name is a combination of a unique file name in the terminal device storing the image information and an identifier of this terminal device (column 16, lines 34-60).

**Regarding claim 6**, Schwarz teaches an information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

specifying means (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) for specifying a terminal

device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices;

first designating means (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) for instructing the terminal device that specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and a second designating means (printer selection override option 48, column 5, lines 17-27).

Boswell teaches an apparatus that further comprise a totalization means (fig. 4, #134, column 9, lines 14-44) to total statistical information analyzation based upon attribute information in said management database.

**Regarding claim 7**, Schwarz teaches an information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

specifying means (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) for specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices;

first designating means (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) for instructing the terminal device that specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and a second designating means (printer selection override option 48, column 5, lines 17-27).

Boswell teaches an apparatus wherein the attribute information includes in column 13, lines 65-67, and column 14, lines 1-5, that each file mask in the file mask library contains mask

criteria, a file name, and possibly contains a print attribute library name, a physical or logical printer name, and/or a Transfer Attribute Library entry name. Matches might take place on run identifier, use identifier, file name, file qualifier, file cycle, account number, file type, project identifier, host system name, print queue name, or number of pages in a print file.

**Regarding claim 9**, Schwarz teaches a method of controlling an information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

a specifying step (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) of specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices;

a first designating step (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) of instructing the terminal device that specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and

a management step (central job accounting, column 6, lines 47-58) of managing record information including the printing date of the printing performed by the printer according to the instruction.

Boswell teaches a method that further comprises a second designating step (fig. 7, #276, column 13, lines 1-18), performed by any of the terminal devices of designating a printer that is to print image information, and

said first designating step (fig. 7, #278, column 13, lines 1-18) includes instructing transfer of the image information in dependence upon mode of connection between the printer

designated by said second designating means and the terminal device storing the image information.

**Regarding claim 10**, Schwarz teaches a method of controlling an information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

a specifying step (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) of specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices;

a first designating step (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) of instructing the terminal device that specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and

a management step (central job accounting, column 6, lines 47-58) of managing record information including the printing date of the printing performed by the printer according to the instruction.

Boswell teaches a method wherein said first designating step includes instructing transfer of the image information in dependence upon whether said terminal device and printer are connected locally or via a network (column 13, lines 9-18).

**Regarding claim 11**, Schwarz teaches a method of controlling an information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

a specifying step (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) of specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices;

a first designating step (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) of instructing the terminal device that specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and

a management step (central job accounting, column 6, lines 47-58) of managing record information including the printing date of the printing performed by the printer according to the instruction.

Boswell teaches a method wherein said specifying step includes specifying a terminal device, which is storing image information to be printed, based upon an image file name that has been registered in a management database for managing image information as image file names (column 16, lines 51-60).

**Regarding claim 12**, Schwarz teaches a method of controlling an information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

a specifying step (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) of specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices;

a first designating step (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) of instructing the

terminal device that specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and

a management step (central job accounting, column 6, lines 47-58) of managing record information including the printing date of the printing performed by the printer according to the instruction.

Boswell teaches a method wherein the image file name (column 16, lines 51-60) is a combination of a unique file name in the terminal device storing the image information and an identifier of this terminal device (column 12, lines 44-64).

**Regarding claim 13**, Schwarz teaches a method of controlling an information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

a specifying step (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) of specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices;

a first designating step (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) of instructing the terminal device that specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and

a management step (central job accounting, column 6, lines 47-58) of managing record information including the printing date of the printing performed by the printer according to the instruction.

Boswell teaches a method further comprises a totalization step of totalizing statistical information based upon attribute information in said management database (column 9, lines 14-44).

**Regarding claim 14**, Schwarz teaches a method of controlling an information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

a specifying step (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) of specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices;

a first designating step (printer token 50, column 4, lines 48-58) of instructing the terminal device that specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and

a management step (central job accounting, column 6, lines 47-58) of managing record information including the printing date of the printing performed by the printer according to the instruction.

Boswell teaches an apparatus wherein the attribute information includes in column 13, lines 65-67, and column 14, lines 1-5, that each file mask in the file mask library contains mask criteria, a file name, and possibly contains a print attribute library name, a physical or logical printer name, and/or a Transfer Attribute Library entry name. Matches might take place on run identifier, use identifier, file name, file qualifier, file cycle, account number, file type, project identifier, host system name, print queue name, or number of pages in a print file.

***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ooki (US 5,991,846) discloses an information processing apparatus for controlling a plurality of output devices including a storage unit for storing respective characteristics of each of the output devices and utilizes the stored information to choose a respective device for printing.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David L Jones whose telephone number is (703) 305-4675. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (6:30am-4:00pm) off alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

David L. Jones

EDWARD COLES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600